

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 5-31 and add new claims 32-46 with the following clean version of the entire set of pending claims, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i).

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32. (new) A tantalum disc comprising at least about 99.95 weight percent tantalum and a substantially uniform {100} crystallographic orientation across a surface of the disc.

33. (new) The disc of claim 32 further comprising a maximum tantalum grain size of less than 50 microns at the disc surface

34. (new) The disc of claim 32 further comprising an average grain size of about 25 microns.

35. (new) The disc of claim 32 produced from a frictionless forged billet.

36. (new) The disc of claim 32 having a thickness, wherein the disc comprises the substantially uniform {100} crystallographic orientation throughout the thickness.

37. (new) The disc of claim 32 further comprising an average tantalum grain size of less than 50 microns at the disc surface.

38. (new) A tantalum disc comprising at least about 99.95 weight percent tantalum and a maximum grain size of less than 50 microns.

39. (new) The disc of claim 38 produced from a frictionless forged billet.

40. (new) A tantalum disc comprising an average grain size of about 25 microns.

41. (new) The disc of claim 40 comprising a maximum grain size of less than 50 microns.

42. (new) A tantalum disc comprising at least about 99.95 weight percent tantalum; the disc having a thickness and a maximum grain size of less than 50 microns throughout the thickness; the disc also comprising a substantially uniform {100} crystallographic orientation throughout the thickness.

43. (new) The disc of claim 42 comprising an average tantalum grain size of less than 50 microns throughout the thickness.

44. (new) A disc comprising at least about 99.95 weight percent tantalum and an average grain size of less than 50 microns.

45. (new) The disc of claim 44 produced from a frictionless forged billet.

46. (new) A disc comprising at least about 99.95 weight percent tantalum and an average grain size of less than about 25 microns.

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